WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A computer-based method for displaying the status of networked resources, including:

rendering in a fishbone layout a hierarchy that includes a plurality of resource profiles and a plurality of dependency relationships among resource profiles in the plurality of resource profiles, where the resource profiles represent networked resources.

2. The method of claim 1, further including:

acquiring a status of a monitored resource having a monitored resource profile in the fishbone layout; and

updating the fishbone layout to reflect the status.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein acquiring a status includes repeatedly acquiring the status at regular intervals.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein repeatedly acquiring the status includes acquiring information about properties of the monitored resource that have changed in a most recent interval among the regular intervals.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein the monitored resource profile includes a propagation rule for how the acquired status should propagate to dependent resource profiles in consumer dependency relationships with the monitored resource profile; and

wherein updating the fishbone layout includes updating the rendering of the dependent resource profiles.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the rendering first displays the fishbone layout in a display panel, using a first density mode of the fishbone layout; and further including:

replacing the first density mode with a second density mode.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein the replacing is in response to a change in the ratio of members of the fishbone layout to a size of the display panel.

8. The method of claim 6, wherein the first density mode of the fishbone layout is a standard mode that renders a tier-two resource profile as a spine, and the second density mode is a mode for rendering components of the fishbone layout at a higher density, relative to the first density mode.

9. The method of claim 6, wherein the first density mode of the fishbone layout is a mode for rendering components of the fishbone layout at a higher density, relative to the second density mode, and the second density mode is a standard mode that renders a tier-two resource profile as a spine.

10. The method of claim 6, wherein:

an instance of topological connectivity between a rendering of a first resource profile and a rendering of a second resource profile in the fishbone layout corresponds to an immediate dependency relationship between the first resource profile and the second resource profile, and

an absence of topological connectivity between the rendering of a first resource profile and a rendering of a third resource profile in the fishbone layout corresponds to an absence of any immediate dependency relationship between the first resource profile and the third resource profile.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein the second density mode of the fishbone layout is a dense mode that renders a tier-two resource profile as a parallelogram.

12. The method of claim 1, further including:

presenting a summary dialog that describes a component of the fishbone layout in response to a sustained mouseover.

13. The method of claim 1, further including:

displaying a context menu for a component of the fishbone layout in response to a right-click on the component, the context menu including a drill-down list offering

procedures to invoke on the component.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein the context menu is customized to the component.

15. The method of claim 13, wherein a procedure in the drill-down list invokes, in response to a selection by the user, a report in a network analysis tool.

16. The method of claim 13, wherein a procedure in the drill-down list causes a re-rendering of the fishbone layout in response to a selection by the user, and wherein the fishbone layout has a root, and the component becomes the root of the fishbone layout.

17. The method of claim 13, wherein a procedure in the drill-down list opens, in response to a selection by the user, a new display panel having a fishbone layout, the fishbone layout having a root and using the component as the root.

18. The method of claim 13, wherein a procedure in the drill-down list opens, in response to a selection by the user, a new snowflake display having a root and using the component as the root.

19. A computer-based method for displaying the status of networked resources, including:

providing a hierarchy including a root resource profile and a plurality of dependent resource profiles in dependency relationships with the root resource profile, such that a minimal path from each dependent resource profile to the root resource profile, the path including a sequence of dependency relationships, has a path length corresponding to a tier in the hierarchy for each such dependent resource profile, and where the resource profiles represent networked resources;

acquiring a status of a monitored resource profile, the monitored resource profile either being the root resource profile or being in the plurality of dependent resource profiles;

associating the status with a severity; and

rendering the hierarchy in a fishbone layout, including rendering the monitored

resource profile with a visual trait indicating the severity.

20. The method of claim 19, wherein the visual trait includes a color selected from a plurality of colors representing a severity scale.

21. The method of claim 20, wherein associating the status with a severity includes using a status metric associated with the monitored resource profile.

22. The method of claim 21, further including:

acquiring notice of a change in the status;

updating the severity; and

re-rendering the hierarchy in a fishbone layout, to include rendering the monitored resource profile to indicate the updated severity.

23. The method of claim 22, wherein updating the severity includes applying an application-wide override to deviate from a behavior indicated by the status metric.

24. The method of claim 23, wherein the deviation includes suppressing a change in severity.

25. The method of claim 19, wherein the fishbone layout is included in a snowflake layout.

26. A computer-based method for displaying the status of networked resources, including:

acquiring a logical hierarchy that includes a plurality of resource profiles and a plurality of dependency relationships among resource profiles in the plurality of resource profiles, where the resource profiles represent networked resources;

deriving a visual hierarchy from the logical hierarchy, components of the visual hierarchy corresponding to components of the logical hierarchy, such that the visual hierarchy is a tree; and

rendering the visual hierarchy in a fishbone layout.

27. The method of claim 26, wherein the visual hierarchy is a directed tree.

28. The method of claim 26, wherein the fishbone layout is included in a snowflake layout.

29. A computing apparatus for displaying the status of networked resources comprising:

a computer usable medium having computer readable program code means embodied therein, including a processor, a main memory, a visual display, a storage device, and a network connection, the program code means comprising:

computer readable program code means for causing a computer to represent a hierarchy including a plurality of resource profiles and a plurality of dependency relationships among resource profiles in the plurality of resource profiles, where the resource profiles represent networked resources;

computer readable program code means for causing the computer to acquire a status of a monitored resource profile in the plurality of resource profiles; and

computer readable program code means for causing the computer to render the hierarchy in a fishbone layout, including rendering a visual representation of the status of the monitored resource profile.

30. A computer-based method for displaying the status of networked resources, including:

rendering in a snowflake layout a plurality of fishbone layouts that each feature a hierarchy with a plurality of resource profiles and a plurality of dependency relationships among resource profiles in the plurality of resource profiles, where the resource profiles represent networked resources, and such that each hierarchy shares a common root.

31. The method of claim 30, further including:

acquiring a status of a monitored resource; and

updating a monitored resource profile of the monitored resource in the snowflake layout to reflect the acquired status.

32. The method of claim 31, wherein acquiring a status includes: repeatedly acquiring the status at regular intervals.

33. The method of claim 32, wherein repeatedly acquiring the status includes acquiring information about properties of the monitored resource that have changed in the most recent interval among the regular intervals.

34. The method of claim 31, wherein the monitored resource profile includes a propagation rule for how the acquired status should propagate to dependent resource profiles in consumer dependency relationships with the monitored resource profile; and

wherein updating the snowflake layout includes updating the rendering of the dependent resource profiles.

35. The method of claim 30, wherein the rendering first displays a fishbone layout in the plurality of fishbone layouts in a display panel, using a first density mode of the fishbone layout; and further including:

replacing the first density mode with a second density mode.

36. The method of claim 35, wherein the replacing is in response to a change in the ratio of members of the fishbone layout to a size of the display panel.

37. The method of claim 35, wherein the first density mode of the fishbone layout is a standard mode that renders a tier-two resource profile as a spine, and the second density mode is a mode for rendering components of the fishbone layout at a higher density, relative to the first density mode.

38. The method of claim 35, wherein the first density mode of the fishbone layout is a mode for rendering components of the fishbone layout at a higher density, relative to the second density mode, and the second density mode is a standard mode that renders a tier-two resource profile as a spine.

39. The method of claim 35, wherein:

an instance of topological connectivity between a rendering of a first resource profile and a rendering of a second resource profile in the fishbone layout corresponds to an immediate dependency relationship between the first resource profile and the second resource profile, and

an absence of topological connectivity between the rendering of a first resource profile and a rendering of a third resource profile in the fishbone layout corresponds to an absence of any immediate dependency relationship between the first resource profile and the third resource profile.

40. The method of claim 36, wherein the second density mode of the fishbone layout is a dense mode that renders a tier-two resource profile as a parallelogram.

41. The method of claim 30, further including:

presenting a summary dialog describing a component of the fishbone layout in response to a sustained mouseover.

42. The method of claim 30, further including:

displaying a context menu for a component of the fishbone layout in response to a right-click on the component, the context menu including a drill-down list offering procedures to invoke on the component.

43. The method of claim 42, wherein the context menu is customized to the component.

44. The method of claim 42, wherein a procedure in the drill-down list invokes, in response to a selection by the user, a report in a network analysis tool.

45. The method of claim 42, wherein a procedure in the drill-down list causes a re-rendering of the fishbone layout in response to a selection by the user, and wherein the fishbone layout has a root, and the component becomes the root of the fishbone layout.

46. The method of claim 42, wherein a procedure in the drill-down list opens, in response to a selection by the user, a new display panel having a fishbone layout, the fishbone layout having a root and using the component as the root.

47. The method of claim 42, wherein a procedure in the drill-down list opens, in response to a selection by the user a new snowflake display having a root and using the component as the root.

48. A computing apparatus for displaying the status of networked resources comprising:

a computer usable medium having computer readable program code means embodied therein, including a processor, a main memory, a visual display, a storage device, and a network connection, the program code means comprising:

computer readable program code means for causing a computer to render in a snowflake layout a plurality of fishbone layouts that each feature a hierarchy with a plurality of resource profiles and a plurality of dependency relationships among resource profiles in the plurality of resource profiles, where the resource profiles represent networked resources, and such that each hierarchy shares a common root.